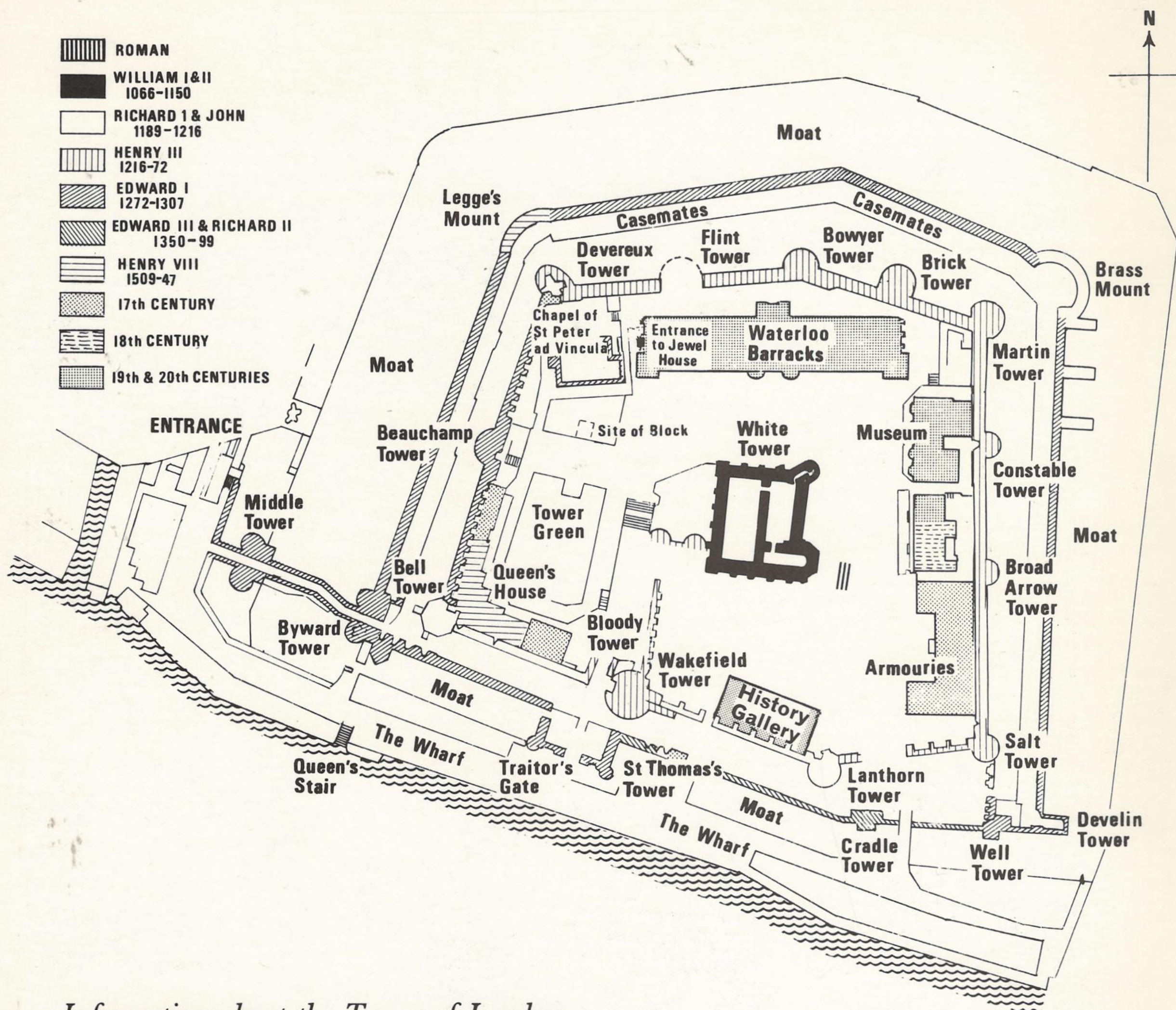
Her Majesty's
TOWER OF LONDON





Information about the Tower of London

The Tower of London is situated on the boundaries of the borough of Tower Hamlets and the City of London. It is in the EC3N 4AB postal district. Telephone 01-709 0765.

HOURS OF OPENING

The Tower is open in the Spring, Summer, Autumn: Monday to Saturday 09.30 to 17.00 (including Saturday and Monday at Easter and Spring and Late Summer Bank Holiday Mondays), Sunday 14.00 to 17.00 (including Easter Sunday). Winter: Monday to Saturday 09.30 to 16.00.

The Tower is closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday and on Sundays during the winter months. The Jewel House closes for the annual cleaning of the Regalia during the month of February.

The Tower Wharf can be entered free of charge through the East and West Gates from 07.00 until sunset on weekdays and from 10.00 on Sundays. It is closed on Christmas Day.

ADMISSION

There is a general admission charge to the Tower which includes entry to the Crown Jewels collection in the Jewel House; a reduction is made for children 5–16 years and retirement pensioners. Children under 5 years are admitted free. A ticket entitles the holder to a general view of the Tower, including the White Tower, the New Armouries and buildings currently open to the public.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA: Admission is restricted to tours conducted by Yeomen Warders.

ROYAL FUSILIERS' MUSEUM

In the old officers' mess on The Broad Walk is this interesting museum containing regimental silver, battle trophies, paintings and dioramas of battles in which the Royal Fusiliers have fought. There is an entry charge.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

UNDERGROUND: Tower Hill (Circle and District Lines). DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAILWAY: Tower Gate. BUSES: 9a, 42 and 78.

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ABOVE: *The White Tower from the south bank of the Thames. The 900th anniversary of its foundation by William the Conqueror, about 1078, was celebrated in 1978, the year following The Queen's Silver Jubilee. King William created his fortress on a site where 1,000 years earlier another invader, the Roman Emperor Claudius, had built a fort. The Tower of London still dominates the river approaches to the City.*

The TOWER OF LONDON

by Olwen Hedley

Although the name 'Tower of London' has long been used to denote the whole of the great fortress and royal palace founded by King William I, 'the Conqueror', it belonged anciently to the central and most commanding feature, the keep. John Stow, the sixteenth-century antiquary, born and bred in the City of London, says in his *Survey of London* first published in 1598 that William, for the defence of the city, 'built this tower, which was the great square tower, now called the White Tower'.

William raised the tower to overawe as well as defend the city, tactics on which depended his sovereignty and the future of the realm. He himself was Duke of Normandy, cousin of the last Saxon king of England, Edward the Confessor, who died on 5 January 1066 and it was his landing on the Sussex shore and his victory at the Battle of Hastings on the following 14 October that brought him his new crown. Hastings was only the beginning of his triumph. The citizens of London showed disinclination to welcome him and not until December, when he had warily circled west and north of the capital, did their representatives meet him and 'from necessity submitted'. He in turn 'promised to be a kind lord to them': but he did not trust to agreements alone. Before entering London he sent a detachment ahead to begin erecting fortified posts and after his coronation in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day withdrew east to Barking 'while certain strongholds were made in the town against the fickleness of the vast and fierce populace'.

There were three, all banking on the Thames. Two, later known as Baynard's Castle and Montfichet Castle, stood in the west and have not survived. The third, the Tower of London, was placed at what was then the south-east corner of the City, immediately within the boundary wall built during the Roman occupation and restored by Alfred the Great in 885, a site of more than local importance. The Thames estuary had from time immemorial been one of the chief inlets into Britain, and as London marks the lowest point at which the river can readily be bridged, the Tower commanded the eastern approaches both by water and by land and had full surveillance of the passage of ships.

The Roman wall, parts of which are still preserved in the Tower precincts, formed the eastern and southern (or river) sides of what may initially have been a small garrison-fort, bounded on the west and north by a rampart and newly dug ditch. The work was directed by Gundulf, a monk of Bec in Normandy who became Bishop of Rochester and is remembered both for his able administration and for his personal sanctity. A later reference suggests that the first Constable may have been a Norman named Ravenger who died about 1086.

Gundulf laid the foundations of the White Tower about 1078. It is a three-storeyed palace-keep with dressings of Caen stone, and its vaulted basement contains a well 40 feet deep. The beautiful tunnel-vaulted Chapel Royal of St John the Evangelist rising through the upper floor with its gallery, and above a crypt and sub-crypt, at its south-east corner dates from about 1080, but the Tower was still unfinished when William the Conqueror died seven years later at Rouen. His son William II, continued the work, which was completed about 1097. The turreted White Tower, 90 feet high and with walls varying in thickness from fifteen feet at the base to eleven in the uppermost storey, stands today as the paramount memorial of the Norman Conquest, one of the most significant events in English history.

The original entrance, on the first floor of the south front, facing the river, and reached by a wooden staircase, was reinstated in 1974. A later stone staircase had been demolished in the 17th century and the entrance made into a window, while a doorway in the north front was used instead. The White Tower is therefore again entered by the route Gundulf planned and which he himself was concerned to render more formidable than hospitable. There are stone newel staircases in all the angle turrets, three of which are square while the fourth, at the north-east corner, containing the principal staircase, is circular. Only this latter staircase makes the complete descent from the top storey to the basement. An additional staircase now provides access from the entrance floor to the chapel.

Military requirements having been satisfied, Norman architecture had also to include a human dimension. On the first and second floors of the White Tower can still be seen the remains of the small privies in the thickness of the wall, some of which retain their original arched shoots on the outside.

The name 'White Tower' commemorates the dazzling artistry of Henry III, who in 1240 had the keep whitewashed both inside and out. He it was who began extension of the precincts into the squarish concentric fortess which today covers eighteen acres and endowed it with the full attributes of a royal palace. The Norman kings, who usually kept their seasonal ceremonial courts at Winchester, Westminster, Gloucester and, after 1110, Windsor, have not left any trace of the rich decoration which must once have adorned the great hall, chamber and chapel on the upper floor of the White Tower, although it was described by William Fitzstephen, the London-born monk of Canterbury who died in 1191, as *arx palatina*, the fortress palace. William II's brother, Henry I, had found a very different use for its vast stone apartments. On 15 August 1100, thirteen days after his accession, Henry arrested the late king's minister, Ranulf Flambard, Bishop of Durham, and on the advice of those around him, as the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* relates, had the bishop 'brought to the Tower of London and kept there'. Flambard was the first of a multitude of unfortunates who were to taste the rigours of the Tower as a state prison. Unlike most of them, he successfully made an unofficial

exit. His friends having conveyed a rope to him in a vessel of wine, he plied his guards with drink and, leaving them in a state of stupor, let himself down from a window in the White Tower and escaped.

Additional buildings and defences had already been constructed before Henry III's reign. The White Tower was described in 1141, when Henry I's daughter, the Empress Matilda, granted custody of the castle to Geoffrey de Mandeville, as 'the tower of London with the little castle which was Ravenger's, and Fitzstephen speaks of 'a fortress of great size and strength, the court and walls of which are erected upon a very deep foundation, the mortar used in the building being tempered with the blood of beasts'. During the wars of the twelfth century, both before and after the establishment of the House of Plantagenet in the person of Matilda's son, Henry II, sovereign and city more than once disputed possession of what seemed to both their lawful citadel, and in 1215, when King John was nearing the end of his contentious reign, it was held in pledge for the completion of Magna Carta.

John, not the most likeable of English kings, had one redeeming trait: a fastidious instinct for building and decoration which he bequeathed to his son, Henry III. Henry was only nine when he became king in 1216, but he was early possessed by the emergent grace of the new Gothic architecture and when in 1236 he married Eleanor, daughter of a royal poet, Raymond Berenger, Count of Provence, he found a consort who shared his awareness of beauty and colour. Whatever they touched they made radiant, and if during Henry's long reign they spent so much money that at one time 'no one would give them a halfpenny on credit', this is a negligible memory compared with their generous and enlightened patronage of the arts. The Tower of London was only one of the palaces they invested with domestic charm and there, as elsewhere, most of their work has vanished, but the record of marble adornment, painted walls, gilded angels, saints and stained glass provides a splendid chapter in its history.

Before his marriage Henry had already begun to lay out the present Inner Ward, enclosing it with a moat defended on north and east by a towered stone wall which extended along part of the southern boundary, where it was washed by the Thames: and in alignment with his riverside wall he built in stone in a Gothic great hall and other royal apartments more in harmony with his civilizing taste than the austere White Tower, to which they formed a forefront. At the relevant point in the riverside wall he placed the circular, two-storeyed Wakefield Tower, the ground floor of which served as a guard room for the little water-gate and steps leading to the new palace from the Thames. The upper storey of the Wakefield Tower is a single, very beautiful vaulted chamber, part of which appears to have been used by the king as an oratory. His great hall survived only until the Commonwealth, but the remains of his water-gate, which lay immediately against the east side of the Wakefield Tower, were discovered in 1957 after having been long concealed by later development and rebuilding of the curtain wall. The Wakefield Tower is today one of thirteen around the inner circuit, many of which date from Henry III's enlargement. The Salt Tower at the south-east angle, the Martin Tower at the north-east, the Devereux Tower at the north-west, and the earlier Bell Tower at the south-west all made part of his new defences: but none compared in majesty with the White Tower rising glorified in their midst.

Not only were the outer walls of the White Tower whitewashed, and those of its stone chambers, but also the walls of the Chapel of St John, where Henry erected three glass windows, one picturing the Virgin and Child, and two 'fair images' of the canonized Edward the Confessor. The cross above the altar he ordered to be painted with 'good colour'. Beauty and holiness were for

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RIGHT: *The Middle Tower, built in the time of Edward I, but largely restored in the early 18th century when windows were put in and the walls refaced.*

this cultured king inseparable. In the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, or 'St Peter in Chains', which stands at the north-west corner of the Inner Ward, he placed a marble font, images of saints and 'two fair cherubim . . . with cheerful and joyous countenances'. The Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, like that of St John, is today a Chapel Royal, but old records usually refer to it as a church and in fact in the early Middle Ages it lay outside the Tower. John Strype, in his enlarged edition of Stow's *Survey* (1720), calls it 'St Peter's Church in the Tower' and adds: 'The Tower is a Parish of itself, and the Church is called S. *Peter's* ad *Vincula within the Tower*'. It is believed to have been founded by Henry I so that the sovereign might be 'seen to worship in public', and as Henry III had two 'large and handsome' royal stalls placed there it is certain that he and Queen Eleanor maintained this tradition.

The shoots of the privies in the White Tower were a source of worry to Henry, who had progressive ideas on the importance of sanitation and in 1245 directed his clerk of works that, as the privy in his own riverside apartments 'smells badly', another was to be made 'even though it should cost a hundred pounds'. The White Tower was never neglected, not because the king himself thought of it as a home, but partly because it was England's premier landmark and partly because regal instinct bade him offer its upper chambers to such exalted captives as Gruffydd ap Llywelyn, Prince of Wales, a leader of the Welsh national movement who, in 1244, tried to escape and plunged to his death. Lesser prisoners, of whom there was already no lack, had little chance to admire Henry's interior decorations. Not for them the hope, however desperate, of descending from a window in the White Tower. When Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, Henry's powerful minister, offended the king he spent some time 'bound in chains' in a vault, while William le Marish, accused of conspiring to kill the king, was cast into the 'direst and most secure prison' and 'loaded with irons'.

It is possible that both were lodged in the sub-crypt of the Chapel of St John, in the basement of the White Tower, or in the passage leading to it, which once formed a cell called Little Ease, but the basement was not primarily a place of confinement. As in other Norman castles, it served as a storehouse; and as it stands ten feet above high water mark, legends that prisoners drowned in its flooded depths can be discounted. Henry III had in any case provided alternative accommodation. There is reference at a later date to 'the round tour called Prisontour beside the Dongeon keep', which must have been built by him at the south-west corner of the White Tower. He had raised a wall between the Wakefield Tower and Coldharbour Gate, so that his palace stood in an 'Inmost Ward' to which the gate gave access. The wall, together with the foundations of the rounded fronts of the twin towers of Coldharbour Gate, was long embedded in a later building destroyed by German bombs on 29 December 1940, from the ruins of which the medieval relics were carefully brought to light.



But for its mounting toll of sad, and only too often sepulchral, memories the Tower would have been a wholly inviting place, the more so as the sights included a wondrous collection of animals. According to Stow, 'Frederick the emperor', that is the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, who had secured England's help in the German wars, sent Henry in 1235 three leopards 'in token of his regal shield of arms, wherein three Leopards were pictured', and the king found room for the emperor's thank-offering in the Tower. They, or their successors, were joined in 1252 by a white bear from the King of Norway: a refined and fascinating bear who fished in the Thames. There was a lion with a keeper named William, both well provided for, and in 1255 Queen Eleanor's brother-in-law, Louis IX of France, sent the king an elephant, probably the first to cross the Channel since the year 43, when the Emperor Claudius brought his processional elephants with him to celebrate the Roman conquest in south-east England. A large pavilion was built for the elephant, who died three years later and was buried in the Tower ditch, only to be exhumed so that its bones might be sent at the sorrowing king's order 'to the sacristan of Westminster, to make thereof what he had enjoined him to do'. For six centuries the Tower continued to house a menagerie. The future Holy Roman Emperor Francis I summed up the interest of generations

FACING PAGE: *The Byward Tower was built at the end of the 13th century, although the top storey is largely of 18th and 19th-century origin. It probably derives its name from 'By-the-Ward', though some say that the name came from the fact that from earliest times a byword or password must be given at night before passing through the gate. This custom is still in force today.*

ABOVE: *The Bell Tower is one of the oldest towers. It was constructed during the late 12th and early 13th centuries. Its name comes from the belfry on the top. From the middle of the 16th century it was used as a prison for more important people – Sir Thomas More, 1534–5; John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, 1535.*

RIGHT: *The Cradle Tower and beyond it the Lanthorn Tower. The Cradle Tower was built in the 14th century. It has an entrance from the moat and was once used as a water-gate to the Royal Apartments.*





of eager spectators when in 1731 he was shown there 'a young he Lyon which had been whelpd four months, which he Saw with pleasure and took him up in his arms, strok'd, kiss'd, and pulld him by the whiskers, and sayd he was a great cureosity to him'.

The animals lived in the semi-circular Lion Tower at the south-west angle of the fortress, to which, as it commanded the entrance from the City, they doubtless added a touch of intimidating symbolism. The Lion Tower had housed the menagerie since the late thirteenth century, when Henry III's martial son, Edward I, completed the Tower as the major concentric stronghold which, in magnitude and contour, is familiar today. Edward enclosed the Inner Ward on the west side, placing half-way along his curtain wall the massive Beauchamp Tower, which projects eighteen feet beyond the face of the wall, and made Henry's outer ditch into the narrow Outer Ward by building a peripheral wall around them and encompassing the entire fortress with the broad moat, long fed with water from the Thames. A loop of the moat circled round the Lion Tower.

Edward's new entrance from the City became the only access by land during the Middle Ages and was approached through the Lion Gate on Tower Hill, which opened immediately on to a drawbridge at the end of a stone causeway built in 1278. The causeway crossed the moat to the Lion Tower and was the first of three. The second, a short causeway, turned from the Lion Tower to the drawbridge and gate-passage of the Middle Tower, beyond which the main causeway continued over the moat to the third drawbridge in front of the Byward Tower, the gatehouse of the Outer Ward.

As the moat was carried round all four sides of the fortress, it involved the 'pushing back' of the Thames from the base of the Salt Tower, the Wakefield Tower, the Bell Tower and their connecting wall on the south and the creation of a wharf between moat and river. A new entrance to the palace by water led under the wharf to St Thomas's Gate beneath St Thomas's Tower, which stands out in splendid detachment over the moat in front of the Wakefield Tower and the adjacent Garden Tower, now called the Bloody Tower. St Thomas's Gate not only evokes long centuries when the Thames was a highway, but commemorates a race of state prisoners who passed by barge through its oak and iron gates and under the broad arch covered by St Thomas's Tower. It was later, and more fatefully, known as Traitors' Gate.

Edward I, when he built it, probably had no sinister foresight and planned it only as a regal approach to his palace and garden, of which St Thomas's Tower was an extension. The tower was named in honour of St Thomas of Canterbury, Archbishop Thomas Becket, who had been murdered in 1170 in his own cathedral and canonised three years later. Becket had been Constable of the Tower of London, an office sometimes held by prelates in earlier times. A small chapel or oratory in St Thomas's Tower is dedicated to him.

The domestic tradition remained a priority in the reign of Edward I's grandson Edward III, who had his private apartments for a time in the Bloody Tower, which he later rebuilt. In the queen's apartments his beloved consort, Philippa, gave birth in 1335 to her second daughter, 'Joan of the Tower', who was still a babe when one day the fireplace in the queen's chamber collapsed 'and stones fell from it while the King's daughters and their nurses were sitting in the room'. However beautiful the medieval royal residence, the Tower was never to be a place of good omen for royal children. Although she survived injury on that occasion,

FACING PAGE: *The Resident Governor about to inspect the Yeomen Warders on parade for the Easter Monday service in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.*

ABOVE: *The Chief Warder* (left) *and the Yeoman Gaoler.*



Princess Joan died of the Black Death while she was journeying at the age of thirteen to wed the King of Castile's son.

She was the merest memory when twenty-nine years later the boy-king, Richard II, son of her eldest brother, Edward Prince of Wales, the 'Black Prince', and his fabled wife, Joan, the 'Fair Maid of Kent', rode out from the Tower on 15 July 1377, the day before his coronation. He was ten years old, golden-haired and so handsome that he was described as 'a second Absalom'. His glorious procession through the City to the Palace of Westminster, attended by every fantasy that art and wealth could provide, set a precedent followed by English sovereigns for the next three hundred years. This noble and gifted young king returned in fallen estate to the Tower in 1399 when his cousin, Henry of Bolingbroke, son of Edward III's fourth son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, usurped his throne and became Henry IV. Richard himself died in Pontefract Castle early in 1400. The embellishment of the Tower during his reign is slightly, but movingly, preserved in the chamber over the gate passage of the Byward Tower, where a wall painting of the Crucifixion, in the court manner, was uncovered in 1953, although partially obscured by a Tudor fireplace. It includes the figures of St John the Baptist, Mary, St John the Evangelist and St Michael, with the leopards of England and the fleur-de-lys of France in the background. Gold and vermilion were used in the decoration and painted popinjays can be traced. Floor tiles bearing leopards and the white hart, badge of Richard's mother, Joan of Wales, were also among the discoveries.

The procession from the Tower through the City was a secular pageant, not to be confused with the procession on the following day, that of the coronation, from the Palace of Westminster to the Abbey. Henry IV added as a prelude to the ceremonies the custom of creating Knights of the Bath, young noblemen who attended the king during his state residence in the Tower the night before the procession to Westminster and underwent a ritual bathing, after which they kept vigil until dawn in the Chapel of St John in the White Tower. Next morning they entered the royal presence, where each had his spurs fastened to his heels and received his sword, girded on by the king himself. The new knights still had to face the Master-Cook, whose autocracy in the Middle Ages extended far beyond his kitchens. The Master-Cook informed them meaningly: '... if you do anything contrary to the Order of Knighthood, which God forbid, I shall hack your spurs from your heels'. Thus admonished, they were ready to attend the king at dinner and then in the grand cavalcade.

The White Tower offered a courtly environment for two royal poets, James I of Scotland, captured at sea in 1406, and Charles Duke of Orleans, leader of the French nationals, who was taken by the future Henry V at Agincourt in 1415: but domestic influences began to wane in the fifteenth century as a chilling wave of history gathered force. The dreadful instrument of torture, the



rack, which made its victims 'a foot longer' than nature had done, originated in the reign of Henry VI, third and last of the House of Lancaster. In the oratory on the upper floor Henry, himself a prisoner when the Wars of the Roses brought to power the House of York, a still younger line of descendants from Edward III, was traditionally murdered in 1471 while at prayer. A marble tablet marks the place where he is believed to have fallen. In Shakespeare's *King Henry the Sixth* he is stabbed by his cousin, Richard Duke of Gloucester, brother of his successor, Edward IV, who according to Stow opened yet another sinister chapter in the annals of the Tower. Prisoners condemned to death usually met their end on the gallows among the elms of Smithfield, or at St Giles's Fields, or at Tyburn, where the Marble Arch now stands. Edward IV introduced 'both scaffold and gallows' on Tower Hill, where so many were to die by the axe.

It was supposedly to prepare Edward IV's young son, Edward V, for his coronation that in 1483 the Duke of Gloucester lodged the heir in the Tower. On 13 June, when many lords had assembled in the council chamber in the White Tower to plan the ceremony, Gloucester entered and after denouncing William, Lord Hastings, the trusted friend of Edward IV, bade Hastings 'shrive him apace . . . for . . . I will not to dinner till I see thy head off!' Hastings was 'brought foorth to the greene beside the chappell within the Tower; and his head laid downe upon a long log of timber, and there stricken off'. The place of his summary execution was Tower Green, in front of the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, and he was the first of seven people eventually beheaded there.

Edward V was joined by his brother, Richard Duke of York, and soon 'those babes' were seen no more. According to the ancient indictment, their uncle Gloucester, who became Richard III, had them smothered as they slept in the Bloody Tower, a name possibly bestowed on this account or possibly because a member of the noble family of Percy committed suicide there. Whatever the truth of the princes' death, a chest containing the skeletons of two children was found under the stone steps which originally led up to the entrance on the south front of the White Tower when workmen were demolishing the staircase in 1674. The remains were accepted as those of the 'Princes in the Tower' and by command of Charles II reinterred in the 'Innocents' Corner' at Westminster Abbey.

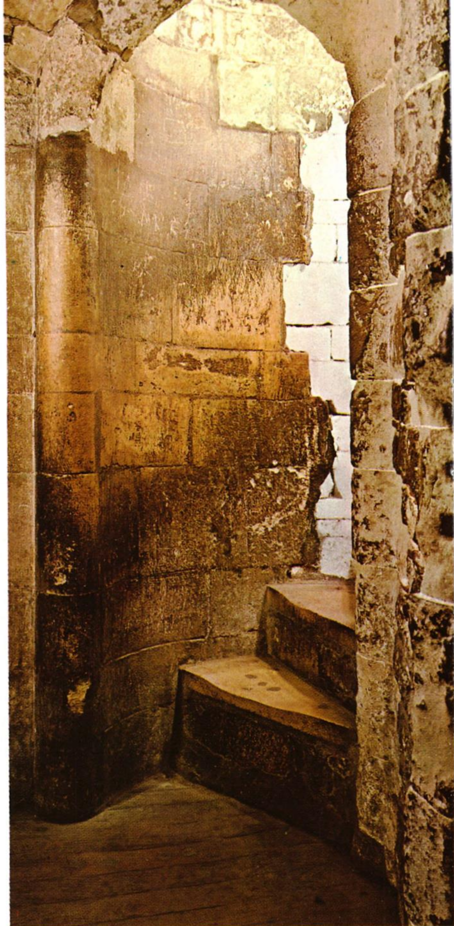
The red rose of Lancaster and the white rose of York ceased their warring

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FACING PAGE: *St Thomas's Tower seen from Tower Wharf. Beneath the tower is Traitors' Gate.*

ABOVE: *The grim portal of Traitors' Gate through which all supposed traitors to the Crown passed on their way to the dungeons. The massive iron and oaken gates were also opened to allow barges to enter the Tower.*





and were united as the parti-coloured Tudor Rose when Henry VII, founder of the House of Tudor and a scion of the Lancastrian blood, married the dead boys' eldest sister, Elizabeth of York. She was nineteen, beautiful, prudent and good. Together Henry and Elizabeth saved England, he by his statecraft, she by devotion to her role as consort: and through their first daughter, Margaret, Queen of Scotland, they secured the continuity of the royal line of England. But even for Elizabeth, as for her young brothers, the Tower was to prove no kindly habit. She was staying there in February 1503 when high in the White Tower, where blue tapestries powdered with gold fleur-de-lys covered the stone walls of her bed-chamber, a child of whom she had intended to lie in at Richmond Palace was prematurely born. Two days later, on her 38th birthday, Elizabeth died. As a young queen, robed in cloth of gold and saluted by the songs of children dressed as angels, she had made her procession from the Tower two days before her crowning. Now, after lying in state in the Chapel of St John, she left it again for Westminster, in a hearse followed by her effigy, enthroned and crowned, and the mourners rode by torchlight through the City. The infant, Princess Catherine, soon followed her mother 'unto a far better kingdom'.

Henry VII died at Richmond on 21 April 1509 and that same day, or the next, his surviving son by Elizabeth, Henry VIII, removed to the Tower. The first official act of Henry VIII's reign was dated from there on 23 April. In later years the Tower was to become a scene of calculated tragedy for more than one person closely associated with him. His second wife, Anne Boleyn, was tried in Henry III's great hall on a charge of adultery and beheaded on Tower Green in 1536. In 1541 a noble grey-haired lady, Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury, 'last of the Plantagenets', shared her fate. The countess was followed in 1542 by Henry's fifth wife, Catherine Howard, and Jane, Lady Rochford, who had been party to the foolish, pretty young queen's infidelity. All four were interred in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, which had been damaged by fire in 1512 and rebuilt by Henry VIII. Lady Jane Grey, the 'nine days Queen', virtuous and learned, a young victim of politics, lies in the chancel with Queen Anne and Queen Catherine. She was beheaded on Tower Green in 1554, the year Henry's elder daughter, Mary I, having succeeded to the throne, imprisoned her half-sister, Elizabeth, daughter of Anne Boleyn, in the Tower. The seventh and last person to die by the axe on the Green was Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, in 1601. Elizabeth had by then herself been sovereign for forty-three years. The headstrong Essex had been a favourite and she is supposed to have given him the 'Essex Ring', now in Westminster Abbey, directing that if ever he were in danger he must send it to her and she would save him. From the Tower he tried to return it, but it did not reach her.

Anne Boleyn was spared such a 'close, filthy prison . . . among mice and rats' as Sir Thomas More endured in the vault of the Bell Tower before his execution on Tower Hill in 1535. She was com-

mitted to the Queen's House, a timber-framed residence built beside the Bell Tower, probably on the site of the medieval constable's lodging, where she had stayed before her coronation. Lady Jane Grey spent her last days next door in the house of Nathaniel Partridge, the Gentleman Gaoler, while her husband, Lord Guildford Dudley, awaited his execution on Tower Hill in the Beauchamp Tower. It was presumably he who carved the name IANE in the great chamber there.

The Tower abounds in graffiti of the kind with which prisoners in the stone castles of the past sought a pathetic immortality. Over ninety, including an elaborate armorial sculpture which jointly commemorates Lord Guildford and his four brothers, are listed in the Beauchamp Tower alone. In the upper chamber or 'Strong Room' of the Bell Tower, where John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, had been imprisoned at the same time as Sir Thomas More, an Irishman, Thomas Maidh O'More, captive in 1581–3, recorded that 'bi-torture-stravnge-my-troth-was-tried'. Elizabeth I's own incarceration in the Queen's House did not incline her to compassion when she in turn wore the crown. During her reign the rack was freely used, together with iron shackles, iron gloves, manacles and the 'Scavenger's Daughter', an iron cage which compressed head, hands and feet, and which derived its name from its inventor, Sir Leonard Skeffington, Lieutenant of the Tower in Henry VIII's time. As the Tower was a state

Continued on page 14

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FACING PAGE (left): *The only block and axe now in the Tower of London are the ones used for the execution of Simon, Lord Lovat, on Tower Hill in 1747. The axe is 16th-century.*

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FACING PAGE (right): *The narrow stairway in the Bloody Tower.*

ABOVE: *The Bloody Tower and gateway and the circular Wakefield Tower.*

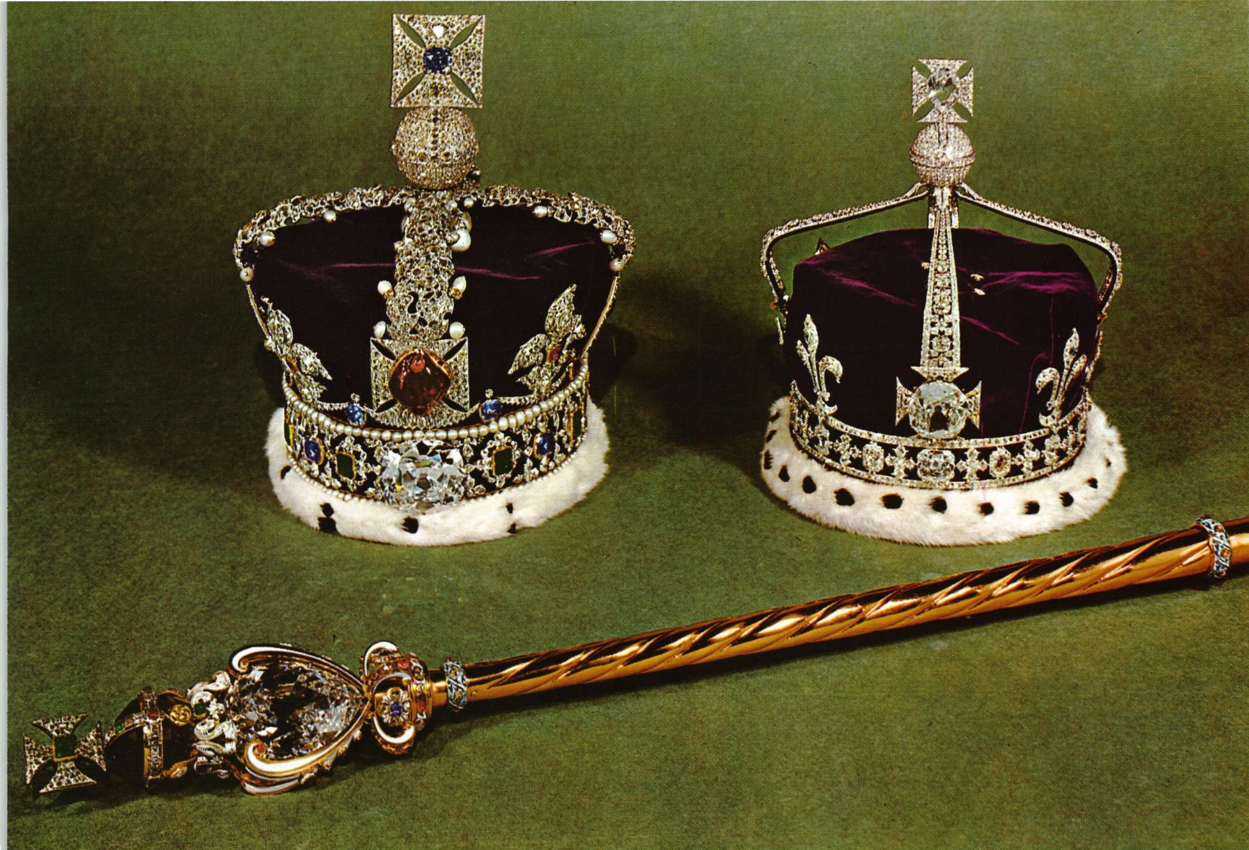


RIGHT: *The marble tablet in the oratory of the Wakefield Tower marking the place where, by tradition, Henry VI fell when he was murdered in 1471.*



The starkly beautiful early Norman chapel of St John the Evangelist in the great White Tower which is seen on the facing page.





prison, persons were not sent there before or after trial in the ordinary courts, but by committal outside and above the Common Law, and refusal to confess or answer interrogations on oath meant, for all except noblemen, 'the question ordinary and extraordinary', that is rigours or torture.

Many who suffered were Jesuits. They have their special remembrance in the Salt Tower, where among their various names and inscriptions are the words, 'Blessed are they that suffer persecution for righteousness'. Some went to their death from the Martin Tower. Here the name 'Ambrose Rookewoode' in the upper chamber recalls the particular eventfulness of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Rookwood was one of the conspirators. Guy Fawkes, leader of the Plot, which was organized in retaliation for James I's severity towards Roman Catholics, was examined in the council chamber in the Queen's House, racked and with three others drawn on a hurdle from the Tower to the Houses of Parliament, where in front of the buildings they had sought to destroy they were hanged, beheaded and quartered.

Stow, who had lived to see Elizabeth I's Stuart cousin, James VI of Scotland, become James I of England in 1603, acknowledged the prestige of the Tower as citadel, royal palace and prison of state, and reminded his readers of other aspects of national importance with which time had endowed it. The royal mint was there. It was also the treasury 'of the ornaments and jewels of the crown', a repository of ancient records and the 'armoury for warlike provisions'. As a palace it retained its ancient titular dignity, but no longer offered residential attractions. Elizabeth I had spent the night in the Tower before setting out, enthroned in a grand canopied litter, on the day before her coronation, but owing to the incidence of plague neither James I nor his son, Charles I, chanced such a procession. The last was that of Charles II on 22 April 1661. Pepys saw 'the show' and praised 'the glory of this day', adding that the 'Knights of the Bath was a brave sight of itself': but Charles had not stayed in the Tower nor created the new Knights there. The ceremony of initiating the Knights, also the last of its kind, was planned in two parts. John Evelyn watched the opening ritual, which included the bathing, in the Painted Chamber of the Palace of Westminster, on 18 April. The second part took place in the chapel of the old Palace of Whitehall. With this procedure the archiac tradition ended. The modern Order of the Bath, founded by George I in 1725, has little connexion with the earlier Order.

The ancient royal regalia of England had been destroyed during the Commonwealth, although after the Restoration in 1660 historic gems and fragments of gold, evidently acquired by royalists, reappeared in the new regalia made by the royal goldsmith, Sir Robert Vyner, for Charles II. The custom of keeping the Crown Jewels in the Tower, to which Stow referred, continued and they were in the Martin Tower when, in 1671, the adventurer Colonel Thomas Blood almost succeeded in stealing them. Disguised as a clergyman, Blood won the trust of the deputy keeper of the Jewels, Talbot Edwards, an ageing man who was attacked and injured when eventually Blood and two 'friends' carried out their plan, in which they were balked by Edwards's son. Although captured with the State Crown concealed beneath his cloak, Blood was pardoned by Charles II. Talbot





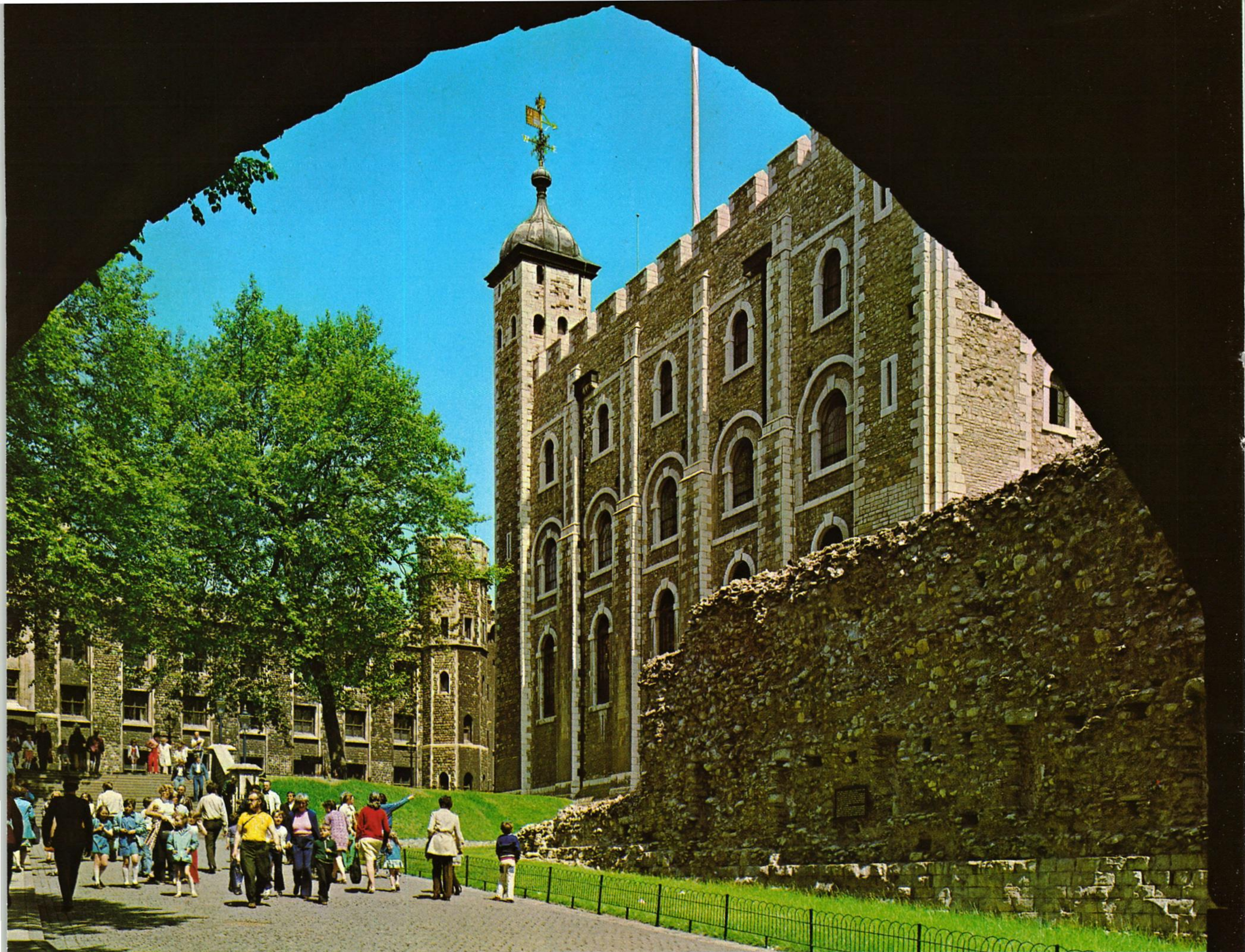
In the White Tower and New Armouries (above) *is the National Collection of Arms and Armour. A description of the collection will be found on page 24.*

ABOVE RIGHT: *Armour of Charles I. Probably Dutch, c. 1625, it is richly engraved and gilded.*

RIGHT: *A magnificent pair of silver mounted flintlock pistols with the crest of the Dukes of Marlborough.*

FACING PAGE: *Part of the Crown Jewels collection: The Imperial State Crown, made for Queen Victoria's coronation in 1838; Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's Crown, made for her coronation in 1937, and the Royal Sceptre with the Cross which contains the largest cut diamond in the world, the Star of Africa.*





Edwards, who like his son received a pension, died three years later at the age of 80 and was buried in St Peter ad Vincula.

According to Chamberlayne's *Angliae Notitia: or The Present State of England*, first published in 1669 and for many years thereafter, the ancient records had 'lain many Years ... under Dust and Cobwebs in a Corner of the White Tower' until in the latter part of the seventeenth century the keeper of records, William Prynne, began to restore and catalogue them. Many 'rare, precious' documents were thus saved for future use by scholars.

Chamberlayne also introduces the Yeoman Warders of the Tower who, among other duties, 'attend Prisoners of State' and 'take account of all Persons that come into the Tower', entering their names in a book perused nightly by the Constable or Lieutenant. Such security was still called for as long as full use was made of the Tower as a state prison. The Stuart rebellion of 1715, following the accession of the House of Hanover, brought some notable Scottish lords there. In 1743 '101 Highland Deserters' arrived and three of these poor men were shot on 17 July at the south-east end of the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, their bodies being laid in an unmarked grave 'just before the South-west end of the Chapple' which was immediately levelled. More Jacobite peers reached the Tower after the 1745 rebellion, among them the octogenarian Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, who was executed on Tower Hill in view of the usual vast concourse of spectators on 9 April 1747. Lord Lovat was the last person to be beheaded in England and it is believed that, as a new block was customarily made to 'fit' individual physique, the rather high one preserved today in the Tower, together with the axe, was his.

Among other personalities named by Chamberlayne in his account of the Tower were the Master-Gunner of England, 'who is to teach and instruct all such as desire to learn the Art of *Gunnery*', the Master of Artillery and 'the *Gunners* of the *Tower*', one or more of whom were 'upon Duty Day and Night'. It was joyful news that the guns proclaimed on the afternoon of Sunday 6 September 1761, when they 'gave notice' to London that, after a perilous voyage across the North Sea, the young

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ABOVE: *The White Tower, built in the 11th century. On the right can be seen a fragment of Henry III's wall of the inmost ward.*



HENRY VI: *He was pious but disastrously weak, and was twice deposed and committed to the Tower, where he was finally murdered.*



SIR THOMAS MORE: *A friend of Henry VIII, but he refused to acknowledge the validity of the king's divorce from Queen Catherine of Aragon.*



ANNE BOLEYN: *Second queen of Henry VIII and mother of Elizabeth I, she was beheaded on Tower Green by a French executioner for alleged infidelity.*



LADY JANE GREY: *The queen of nine days. She was executed in 1554.*



PRINCESS ELIZABETH: *Confined by Mary I in the Queen's House, 1554.*



SIR WALTER RALEGH: *Imprisoned for twelve years and beheaded in 1618.*

ARCHBISHOP LAUD: *A fervent supporter of Charles I, he was beheaded in 1645.*



SAMUEL PEPYS: *Accused of conspiracy in the Popish Plot; later released.*



LORD LOVAT: *In 1747 the last person to be beheaded in England.*





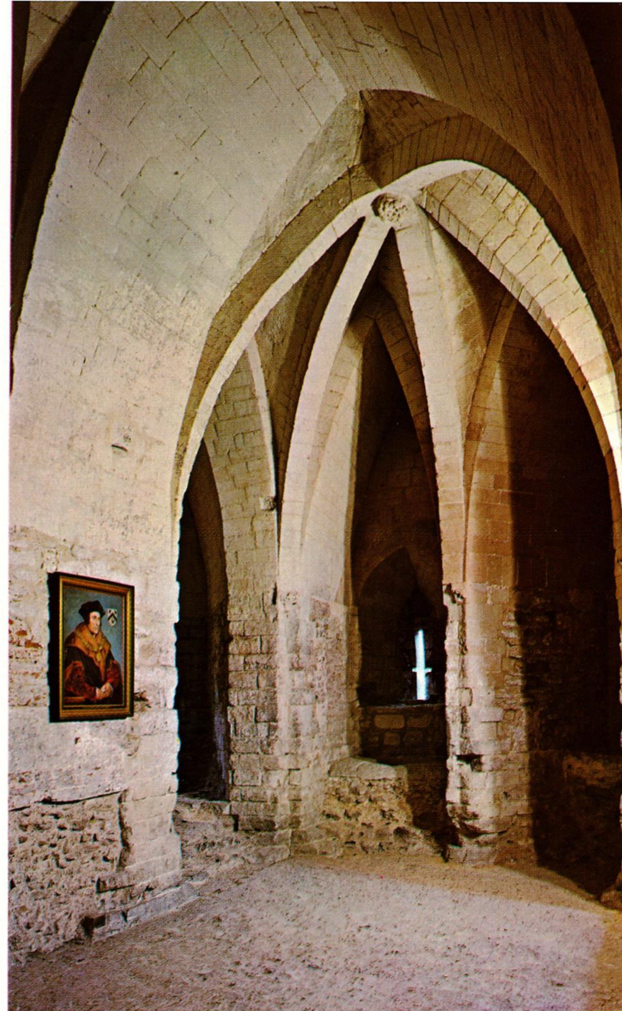
ABOVE: *The Queen's House on Tower Green. Next to it is the Yeoman Gaoler's House, where from a window Lady Jane Grey watched her husband leave his prison in the nearby Beauchamp Tower for his execution. She later saw his headless body being carried to the Chapel of St Peter. From the same windows she watched the scaffold for her own execution being erected.*

LEFT: *The Council Chamber in the Queen's House. In this room conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot were interrogated.*

FACING PAGE (left): *The changing of the guard outside the Queen's House.*

FACING PAGE (right): *The chamber in the lower floor of the Bell Tower in which Sir Thomas More was imprisoned by Henry VIII. He was executed in July 1535 and was buried in St Peter's Chapel.*



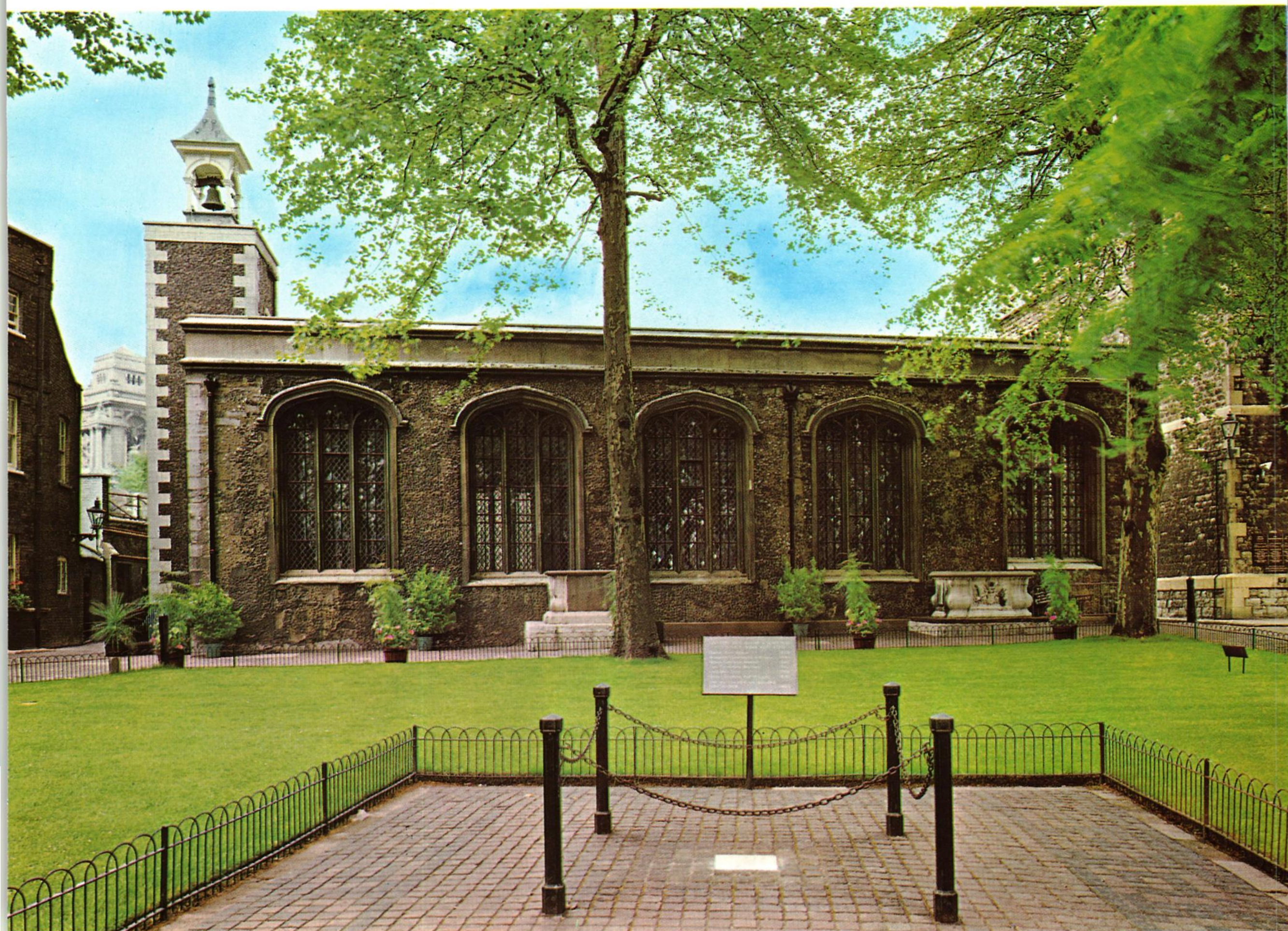


Princess Sophie Charlotte of Mecklenberg-Strelitz had reached Harwich. She had come to marry George III, who had succeeded his grandfather a year earlier. They met for the first time on the following Tuesday afternoon, were married a few hours later and loved each other dearly. From their union sprang the present royal dynasty of England.

Queen Charlotte had something to say of the Tower in June 1780, when during the 'no Popery' riots led by Lord George Gordon in London the moat was hastily replenished and the drawbridges kept raised. The king had hastened back to Buckingham House, and she with him: and it was with heartfelt relief that after days of '*sedition* affreuse' she was able to tell her brother, Prince Charles, later Grand Duke, of Mecklenberg-Strelitz, that Lord George 'est arriti pour leze Majesti est gardi la Tour'. (The spelling is the Queen's.)

Imprisonment in the Tower conveyed a social cachet in the eighteenth century. It was 'a civility ever shown to the H[ouse] of Com[mons]', George III told the Earl of Bute when that popular reformer and troublesome member of parliament, John Wilkes, went there in 1763. Henry Laurens, captured while voyaging to Holland in 1780 on behalf of the future United States of America, was told, '... you are to be sent to the Tower of London, not to a prison': a distinction he failed to grasp when he found himself under constant surveillance in two small rooms on the Parade. Nor did he appreciate the 'honour' of having to pay rent for his accommodation, together with the bills for coal and candles. Laurens's invective against the Tower, published in 1857, was no doubt justified, but had he known it, conditions were wonderfully improved since the dark ages. Lord George Gordon, who was still there, had frequent visitors, among them John Wesley, who noticed Lord George's abundance of books, 'enough to furnish a study'. The Tower continued to be used for political prisoners, but their number gradually declined until they became a rarity. The Irish rebel, Roger Casement, awaited his trial for treason there in the First World War. He was hanged at Pentonville Prison. In 1941, during the Second World War, Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler's deputy, made a lone flight from Germany to attempt a personal peace offering and baled out over Scotland. The Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, with his characteristically grand sense of propriety, sent Hess initially to the Tower, ordering that he be strictly isolated but treated with dignity. Hess was the last of the long roll of prisoners in the Tower.

The Tower today bears the official title of 'Her Majesty's Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London' and is commanded by a Constable appointed by the Crown, to whom the 'Keys and Custody' are delivered by the Lord Chamberlain in a formal ceremony of



installation. A line of eminent prelates, politicians and soldiers have held this authoritative office, but the policy of appointing distinguished soldiers has been definitive since the time of Arthur Wellesley, first Duke of Wellington, who was Constable for 26 years. The tenure of appointment, formerly for life, was altered in 1933 to five years.

The Constable, who has direct access to the Sovereign, is given possession of the Queen's House and he in turn conveys it to the Resident Governor. The latter occupies it and altogether with two deputy governors maintains direct rule of the Tower, which has as custodians of the precincts the special force of Yeoman Warders. Applicants for this historic corps, which numbers 35 apart from the Chief Warder, Yeoman Gaoler and Yeoman Clerk, must have served as warrant officers or colour sergeants in the Army, Royal Marines or Royal Air Force, and must also hold the Long Service and Good Conduct medal. They are sworn in to their office as Yeomen Extraordinary of the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard, a company founded by Henry VII in 1485 which has its headquarters at St James's Palace. Customarily the Yeomen Warders of the Tower are seen in the blue undress uniform granted them by Queen Victoria in 1858, but on state occasions they wear the gorgeous scarlet and gold dress to which they have been entitled, on the authority of Edward VI, since 1552. It is the same as that of the Yeoman of the Guard except for the latter's distinguishing feature, the gold cross-belt which passes from the left shoulder to the right side. Many of the Yeomen Warders live at Casemates, houses built against Edward I's wall around the Outer Ward: the word 'casemate' indicates a vaulted chamber with embrasures in the thickness of a wall.

The Royal Mint moved out of the Tower in 1810, and the lions in 1831 to Regent's Park, where the present London Zoo had been founded four years

The public are invited to attend Divine Service at the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula within H.M. Tower of London. The following services are held each Sunday (except in August):

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Matins and Sermon

There is no charge for admission to the Tower of London to attend these Services.

earlier. Although a humane change for the lions, many people regretted it. As the national emblem they were felt to be inalienable from England's premier fortress, the more so as a generative supply had been ensured by gifts from foreign potentates. The Emperor of Morocco sent George III in 1807 'a young lion and lioness', which the king informed the Lord Chamberlain 'are now at the London Docks on board the ship Friendship' and must without delay be made comfortable at the Tower.

After the removal of the imperial beasts to Regent's Park the Lion Tower was levelled, but its location is traceable, as part of the curved outer wall is marked in the roadway. The pit of the Lion Gate drawbridge and the curved slots for its counterweights survive, while the outermost causeway, covered over when the moat around the Lion Tower was filled in towards the end of the seventeenth century, was brought to view again in 1936. A short middle causeway still leads to the Middle Tower, restored in the reign of George I, whose royal arms stand out above the gate-passage, and from there the third causeway goes across the moat to the Byward Tower. Neither the Middle Tower nor the Byward Tower now have a drawbridge in front, nor are the sides of the causeway lapped by water. The moat was finally drained in 1843.

The Byward Tower, which on either side of the gate-passage has guard-rooms with fine stone vaults and hooded fireplaces, remains the gatehouse of the Outer Ward and it is here that the password is demanded by the sentry at night. It opens into that part of the Outer Ward called Water Lane, which leads past the Bell Tower to the Bloody Tower and adjacent Wakefield Tower. The archway under the Bloody Tower, opposite St Thomas's Tower on the river side, gives entrance to the Inner Ward, a route once actively protected by a portcullis of which the mechanism can still be seen in the tower. The stone chambers and narrow winding staircase of the Bloody Tower, predominantly associated, in popular legend at least, with the boy-king, Edward V, and his brother, were also familiar to many later prisoners, including Sir Walter Ralegh, who wrote there the only volume of his projected 'History of the World' to be completed. Ralegh was executed in 1618.

The Bloody Tower was restored in 1975 and exhibits commemorating Ralegh's occupation placed on view. It's neighbour, the Wakefield Tower, had already been reopened after renovation in 1970. From 1870 until 1967 the Wakefield Tower had been the repository of the Crown Jewels, now displayed in the specially designed underground Jewel House beneath the Waterloo Barracks on the north side of the Inner Ward. The most pervasive memorial in the Wakefield Tower today is that of Henry VI in the upper chamber. The tragic king who inspired William Wordsworth's sonnet, 'Tax not the royal Saint with vain expense', founded Eton College and King's College, Cambridge, and every year, on the anniversary of his death on 21 May 1471, three white lilies tied with light blue ribbon for Eton and a sheaf of white roses bound with purple ribbon for King's are laid, at six o'clock in the evening, on the marble tablet which commemorates him.

Violence, long relegated to the Tower's remoter past, became appalling reality again when on the afternoon of 17 July 1974 a terrorist bomb exploded in the basement of the White Tower, killing one woman and seriously injuring 37 people, including eight children. The basement, vaulted in brick about 1730 and used, like the rest of the White Tower, for the display of the national collection of arms and armour, was only slightly affected, while on the floor above some of the fine jousting armour was damaged and display cabinets smashed.

Although so much of the history of the Tower is rooted in tragedy, it has a happier, if less well documented, human past at which Strype hinted when he called it 'a Parish of itself'. There have always been resident families to serve it in everyday life and the modern community of men, women and children numbers several hundred. They have their own parochial interests, their own social club and tennis court, their own chaplain and doctor, and their own church services (to which the public are welcomed) every Sunday morning in the

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FACING PAGE: *The Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula and the paved and railed scaffold site on Tower Green. On the board are inscribed the names of the six tragic figures of history beheaded there. A scaffold was erected only when an execution was pending.*

RIGHT: *The Tower ravens are part of the legend of the Tower. A curious superstition dating from the time of Charles II prophesies that when there are no longer ravens in the Tower both the White Tower and the British Commonwealth will fall.*





Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, where the relationship of worship and music adds a gracious attribute to the Tower. Not only does the Master of Music direct a choir of high standing, but he plays an organ built in 1679 by Bernhardt Schmidt for the chapel in the old Palace of Whitehall, installed in St Peter ad Vincula in 1890 and restored in 1953. It still has some of its original pipes.

The Tower Liberty, freed from the City when the boundaries were altered in the seventeenth century, is preserved by the ceremony of 'beating the bounds' every third year on Ascension Day. Boys whose families have connexions with the Tower take an active and enthusiastic part. They begin by assembling on Tower Green, where they are given white wands. As they perambulate the territory the Tower Chaplain proclaims at each boundary mark, 'Cursed is he who removeth his neighbour's landmark', the Chief Warder directs, 'Whack it, boys, whack it', and the boys duly pound it with their wands. By following this ancient custom, which in most other parts of England has died out, the boys retain a clear memory of the boundary marks and one generation after another can rely on the evidence so provided.

Every night the official routine of the Tower ends with the ancient Ceremony of the Keys. At seven minutes before ten o'clock the Chief Warder leaves the Byward Tower in his long red coat and Tudor bonnet, carrying in one hand a candle lantern and in the other the Queen's Keys, and proceeds to Traitor's Gate where an escort normally provided by one of the regiment of Foot Guards awaits him. He hands the lantern to a member of the escort and the party moves to the outer gate, the first to be locked. Along the route all guards and sentries salute the Queen's Keys. Still with his escort, the Chief Warder returns towards Water Lane. The great oak doors of the Middle and Byward Towers are locked and the procession retraces its steps to the archway of the Bloody Tower, where a sentry issues the challenge, 'Halt! Who goes there?' The Chief Warder answers, 'The Keys'. 'Whose Keys?', comes the query. 'Queen Elizabeth's Keys'. 'Pass Queen Elizabeth's Keys. All's well'. The party passes on under the archway to where the main guard is drawn up. The officer in charge gives the command to present arms The Chief Warder moves two paces forward, lifts his Tudor bonnet and cries, 'God preserve Queen Elizabeth'. The ceremony has taken exactly seven minutes and the clock is chiming ten as the guard answers 'Amen' and the bugler sounds the Last Post. Finally the Chief Warder delivers the keys to the Queen's House and the guard is dismissed.

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FACING PAGE (above): *The Honourable Artillery Company firing a 62-gun salute on Tower Wharf to mark the anniversary of The Queen's official birthday.*

FACING PAGE (below): *The installation on Tower Green of Field Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker, GCB, CMG, CBE, MC, in October 1975, as 153rd Constable of the Tower.*

ABOVE: *The final scene of the Ceremony of the Keys.*

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The publishers and author wish to thank Mr P. E. Curnow, Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings, Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, for kindly reading and commenting on the text.

The Arms and Armour

A. R. DUFTY

Formerly Master of the Armouries in H.M. Tower of London

The White Tower and the New Armouries contain the national collection of arms and armour. As the most important fortress in the kingdom, the Tower must have held armour and arms from the time it was first built, but in their present form the Armouries date from the time of Henry VIII. The collection – one of the greatest in the world – illustrates the development of arms and armour from the Middle Ages to 1914.

The White Tower is entered through the *Hunting Armoury*, where the collection of hunting and sporting arms includes crossbows and firearms. Here can be traced the technical advances in firearm mechanisms, from the match lock, the wheel lock and the flintlock to the percussion lock. The development of decorative techniques is also evident: craftsmen applied or inlaid precious metals, ivory, bone and even mother-of-pearl to enhance the wood they carved and the metal they chiselled with such consummate skill. The contemporary artistic styles from the 15th to the 19th centuries can thus be seen. An especially interesting exhibit is the elegant gilt brass sporting gun made in Dundee in about 1615. It may have belonged to a member of the Scottish royal family. Other unique exhibits are the gun with a silver barrel by Piraube and the splendid pair of English pistols by Monlong.

The adjacent *Tournament Armoury* is devoted entirely to armour specially designed for use in this warlike exercise. Examples shown in the room include the armour for a German type of joust known as the *Scharfrennen*, in which sharp lances were used, and the splendid 'Brocas' helm. The armour was made about 1490 in Germany for use at the court of the Emperor Maximilian I; the jousting helm was probably made in Germany in the same period.

In jousts, mounted men ran different courses against each other, each course requiring armour of a special pattern; men also fought against one another on foot and this required armour of yet another pattern.

The Armouries contain three foot-combat armours made for Henry VIII: the first and second in about 1520 when he was slim and active, the third in 1540 when he was forty-nine and very portly. The second is remarkable in that all the plates fit together over flanges, thus enabling his height of six feet one inch to be accurately determined. Another important foot-combat armour is one of twelve made in 1591 as a splendid Christmas gift for Christian I of Saxony from his wife. Unhappily the Elector died in the September before the rich present was delivered.

Through the Chapel of St John is the *Medieval Armoury* which is now devoted to the earliest arms and armour in the Tower. The exhibits are mostly of the late 14th and 15th centuries and include a superb Italian visored bascinet with its original neck protection of mail. There is also one of the few Gothic horse armours surviving; it was probably made to the order of Waldemar VI of Anhalt-Zerbst (1450–1508).

In the adjoining *Renaissance Armoury* are shown fine arms and armour dating from that century, but excluding our English products. Most conspicuous is the massive suit of German armour made in about 1540 for a man nearly seven feet tall. Of the middle of the century is the splendid 'Lion' armour embossed with lions' masks and damascened in gold.

On the top floor, the *Tudor Armoury* is devoted mainly to the armours made in the royal workshops at Greenwich which Henry VIII established in 1515. They include four armours made for the king himself, one engraved and silver-plated, and others made at Greenwich for Tudor courtiers. There is an armour made for one of Elizabeth I's favourites, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, another for William Somerset, Earl of Worcester, another for Sir John Smythe, who vainly championed the use of the long bow many years after its inevitable suppresssion by firearms.

In the adjoining *Stuart Armoury* are beautiful little armours made in Holland and England for the Stuart kings and princes and also the London-made harquebus armour of James II. They are the focus of a display devoted to the 17th century, the last period before the disuse of armour.

Separate displays are devoted to the armour, arms and accoutrements of the richly equipped bodyguards, the light and heavy cavalry, and the infantry. The armour of the pikemen was the last to be worn by foot soldiers before the increased efficiency of firearms made its use impractical.

In the basement is the *Mortar Room*, where the bronze mortars on view include one of nine bores used for fireworks at the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748. At the far end of the room is the entrance to the sub-crypt of the Chapel of St John, where a carved and gilt figure of the Lion of St Mark, a trophy from Corfu, is flanked by a number of the finest small cannon from the Armouries collection. In the adjacent *Cannon Room* the walls are hung with relics of Henry VIII's army and a great array of armour and weapons returned to the Tower after the Civil War. Here also is the greater part of the Armouries collection of cannon, including several from the ships of Henry VIII's navy.

The *New Armouries*, a 17th-century red brick building south-east of the White Tower, contains in one gallery arms and armour produced by and for the Board of Ordnance, among them the Reverend Alexander Forsyth's own models of the percussion lock he invented after experimenting in the Tower. Superseding the flintlock, it completely revolutionised firearm development and, in consequence, the science of war. The Waterloo Building contains the *Oriental Armoury* where there is a representative collection of arms and armour of Africa and the Orient dominated by an armour for an elephant, probably captured at the Battle of Plassey in 1757, and a Japanese armour presented to James I by the Governor of Edo in 1613. When present arrangements are completed, in another gallery there will be a display of 18th- and 19th-century weapons and miscellanea including a suite consisting of a gun, pistols, powder flask and matching stirrups made to the order of Elizabeth, Empress of Russia.

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